



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Eyes on the prize

Ken Whitten is right. The senior pastor of Idlewild Church in Lutz, Fl., outside Tampa, preaching last week at the 2013 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, commented that Mississippi Baptists seem to get along quite well. It's not that way in some of the other state conventions that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention, he added.

It doesn't take long for an observant person to reach that conclusion about the year-round conduct of Mississippi Baptists, but it is especially true during our state convention's annual meeting. We do get along, and the important Kingdom work remaining to be done is better off because of it.

In some states, the relationships between Baptists are so contentious that the state conventions have split into two distinct and competitive groups. In one state, Baptists are aggressively suing Baptists in secular court for possession and control of convention property and assets. In at least three states where Baptists have split, there are two Baptist newspapers. The list of antagonistic activities in those states could go on and on.

Not so in Mississippi. Baptists here know how to keep their eyes on the prize. We have learned, through the Lord's leadership in our lives, to throttle egos, avoid unnecessary conflict, and move forward in order to accomplish our ultimate goal of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).

An important segment of the 2013 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention serves as a good example. Only one of six races for high office fielded two candidates — and either candidate would have been an excellent choice. Two of the finest men in Mississippi Baptist life were nominated and seconded by four of the likewise finest men in the convention.

It was a win-win for Mississippi Baptists. (Don't we all wish that was the case in secular politics?) After the results were announced, there were no disruptions,

accusations, or backbiting with which to contend. The messengers moved smoothly on with convention business and then returned to praise and worship.

That's something a lot of Mississippi Baptists who skip the annual meeting cannot begin to understand. Messengers to the annual meeting are of course there to handle the business matters of their state convention, but it's obvious that they want to address those matters as thoroughly as necessary and as swiftly as possible so they can return to praise and worship of our Heavenly Father and His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praise and worship are what Mississippi Baptists do, and attending the annual meeting is like being in the best seats for an all-star game. The sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, rings with joy as messengers and guests express their love and commitment to the One who loves us and is committed to us.

The Bible Treasure devotionals are phenomenal, led by some of the brightest lights in the Southern Baptist Convention. The messages are unforgettable. The music is beyond inspirational. The atmosphere is unmistakably filled with the Holy Spirit. There's nothing else like it in Mississippi.

So, why weren't you there? In addition to the soul-satisfying praise, worship, and preaching, you could have been involved in determining the direction of the convention for the coming year — and beyond. Most Mississippi Baptists would be astounded to know the depth and scope of all the ministries they support each year, from Backyard Bible Clubs in local neighborhoods to distant countries on the other side of the world where their presence has to be kept a secret.

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is simply too good to pass up. Make plans to attend next year, and to serve as a messenger from your church. Kingdom work works best when we are all involved.

Let's make it happen.

Christians persecuted around globe

Umar Mulinde grew up in a strict Muslim home in Uganda. His grandfather was an imam (religious leader), and Umar was trained in Islamic thought which went unchallenged until he left home for college.

Umar visited a church for the first time one Sunday and was so impressed with the Gospel that he surrendered his life to Christ. Three Muslim friends saw him leave the church, and attacked him. He assumed the beatings would stop. He was wrong.

In time, Umar preached in a church that grew in size to 1,000. On Christmas night 2011 as he left church, Muslim assailants threw acid on his face as they shouted, "Allahu Akbar" ("God is Greatest").

As a result, he is badly scarred and blind in one eye — but he continues to preach. "When I became a Christian, I was set free from legalism, fear, and hatred. My message today is one of Christ's love and forgiveness, and I will continue to preach it."

Umar's story is one of thousands around the world illustrating the fact that religious freedom is the exception, not the rule, in many countries. Paul Marshall, Lela Gilbert, and Nina Shea bring this reality to light in their book, *Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians*.

Along with dozens of heart-wrenching stories, the authors report:

■ Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world today. Seventy-five percent of acts of religious intolerance are directed against Christians.

■ Christians suffer harassment by the state and/or society in 133 countries — two-thirds of the world's nations — and suffer in more places than any other religious group, according to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

■ 70 million Christians have been killed for their faith throughout the first two millennia of church history. Forty-five million have died in the 20th century alone.

■ Most persecution of Christians springs from one of three causes. First is the hunger for total political control, exhibited by communist and post-communist regimes. Second is the desire to preserve favored religious privilege, evident in South Asia. Third is radical Islam's goal of religious dominance, which is generating an expanding global crisis.

Certainly, other religious observers experience persecution, but nothing compares to what is taking place around the world in



Guest opinion
with Rob Phillips

lands hostile to Christianity.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed in a Nazi concentration camp, once remarked, "Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness and pride of power and with its plea for the weak. Christians are doing too little to make these points clear rather than too much."

Bonhoeffer continued, "Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offense, shock the world far more, than they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favor of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong."

Martin Niemöller, a German pastor who survived seven years in a Nazi concentration camp, famously said, "First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me."

There are enough Baptist Christians in the United States to press our elected officials to fight for religious liberty and basic human rights in our nation and in countries around the world. We must not stand idly by while our brothers and sisters in Christ in other lands are systematically targeted for their faith.

If we do not stand for the weak and powerless now, who will stand for us when persecution comes to our churches?

Phillips is director of communications for the Missouri Baptist Convention. This commentary first appeared in *The Pathway* (www.mbcpathway.org), *newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention*, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

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U.S. NEWS

Texas abortion clinic law similar to Miss. law upheld

AUSTIN, Texas (BP and local reports) — A Texas law regulating abortion clinics that is similar to a Mississippi law presently awaiting a federal court trial may take effect as drafted, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled on Oct. 31.

The Fifth Circuit ruling stated that challenges to the Texas law's constitutionality likely would fail. The Fifth Circuit's decision could force the closure of as many as 13 Texas abortion clinics, according to abortion provider Planned Parenthood.

The decision, by a three-judge panel of women sitting on the appellate court, reverses an Oct. 28 ruling by U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel, who declared unconstitutional a provision in House Bill 2 that an abortion doctor have hospital privileges within 30 miles of his/her practice.

Yeakel also partially blocked the law's more stringent guidelines for how the abortion drug RU-486 is administered.

The three-judge panel — Jennifer Walker Elrod, Priscilla R. Owen, and Catharina Haynes — acknowledged "a substantial likelihood that the State will prevail in its argument that Planned Parenthood failed to establish an undue burden on women seeking abortions or that the hospital admitting privileges requirement creates a substantial obstacle in the path

of a woman seeking an abortion... We also conclude that the State has made a strong showing of likelihood of success on the merits, at least in part, as to its appeal of the injunction... pertaining to medication abortions," namely the use of abortion causing drugs such as mifepristone (RU-486) and misoprostol.

"God is so good," said Kyleen Wright, president of Texans for Life.

Mississippi's law, which also contains a provision requiring hospital admitting privileges for doctors performing abortions, is slated for trial on March 3 of next year before U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III in Jackson. The owner of Mississippi's only remaining abortion clinic, located in Jackson, filed the lawsuit and obtained a temporary restraining order from Jordan that stalled enforcement of the new law.

Wright said she believes the decision will have a significant impact on the abortion industry in Texas. According to information from the Oct. 28 district court hearing, clinics in Lubbock, Killeen, Waco, McAllen, Fort Worth, and possibly Dallas will cease providing abortions because their staff physicians do not have admitting privileges.

The Fort Worth Women's Whole Health Clinic, which opened in June, meets all standards outlined in HB 2

with the exception of the physician privileges provision, even though the clinic sits across the street from a hospital.

The clinics could close temporarily and reopen when their doctors become compliant — but Wright said they might not be able to recover from the loss of revenue generated by abortions.

The pro-choice organization National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) called the decision "devastating." NARAL retweeted a post from Planned Parenthood, "Abortion providers in #Texas are cancelling their patients' appointments: 'It's a sad and dark day.'"

In a report by Dallas CBS affiliate KTVT, Marva Sadler with the Whole Women's Health Clinic in Fort Worth, said, "Those who were scheduled to come in Friday had to be notified about the last-minute change. We called a total of 15 patients this morning and, of those 15 patients, 14 of them agreed that they're going to be forced to be mothers."

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said in a statement, "This unanimous decision is a vindication of the careful deliberation by the Texas Legislature to craft a law to protect the health and safety of Texas women."

Abbott has announced his intention to run for governor of Texas in 2014.

While social media feeds from pro-

choice advocates decried the decision, there was one notable exception. The Twitter feed for Wendy Davis, Abbott's presumed Democrat opponent in the governor's race, was conspicuously silent following the ruling. In July, Davis stood for an 11-hour filibuster in a failed attempt to stop the pro-life legislation.

She received national notoriety for her efforts and joined forces with NARAL and Planned Parenthood in their "Stand with Texas Women" campaign fighting to maintain the late-term abortion standards.

According to the Think Progress website, Amy Hagstrom Miller, president of Whole Women's Health and owner of five abortion clinics, said, "We have regressed backwards about 30 years." Three of her clinics were forced to close Friday, she claimed.

"It's a big financial hit for her," Wright said.

Planned Parenthood, the primary complainant named in the suit against the State of Texas, could appeal the 5th Circuit Court's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, but Wright said she thought that remains doubtful.

The owner of the Jackson clinic, Diane Derzis, was forced to close her Birmingham abortion clinic by Alabama health officials, who have also alleged she operated an unlicensed abortion facility in that state.

WORLD NEWS

Vietnam protests over Christians' imprisonment met with criticism

WASHINGTON (BP) — Catholics in northern Vietnam protesting against the long-term detention of two parishioners have run afoul of authorities in the Southeast Asian country.

"Anthony" Nguyen Van Hai, 43, and "Peter" Ngo Van Khoi, 53, were arrested for "disturbing the public order," according to World Watch Monitor.

Their alleged criminal act was visiting a Catholic shrine south of Hanoi in the Nghi Phuong Commune in Nghe An Province.

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), the men were to be released Sept. 2, traditionally considered a day for amnesty in Vietnam. When local police did not release the men, family members were joined the following day by a larger group of Catholics in front of the Nghi Phuong District Peoples' Committee offices.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that the district chief promised the release of the men on Sept. 4. Nguyen and Ngo were not released and the

"In the coming years, it is unlikely that the situation will change substantially in favor of the Christian minority. Authorities have started to place more restrictions on areas that have experienced a more 'lax' approach from the government for years."

the World Watch List

authorities ordered the Catholic protesters to disperse.

When the protesters refused, a large group of police, soldiers, and private citizens beat the protesters with clubs, seriously injuring 40. Shots reportedly were fired into the air and religious icons were smashed, according to CSW.

Bishop "Paul" Nguyen Thai Hop of the Vinh diocese called for "international support and solidarity" after the attack on the Catholics, a religious minority in northern Vietnam. A statement from Vietnamese Catholic Mass Media also said, "The laws of Vietnam have become an effective means for the authorities to use whenever they want to suppress their own people."

Asia News reported more than 50,000 Catholics gathered on Oct. 6 at the Thuan Nghia parish for a special mass and prayer service led by some 20 priests.

Participants at the gathering called for the release of Nguyen and Ngo, who still have not been charged with any crime. Vietnamese state television has criticized the calls for support as an attempt to "foment riots."

In a 10-minute news report, according to Asia News, Vietnam's state news agency said Bishop Nguyen was guilty of "lying" and turning a legal case against Nguyen and Ngo into a "case of persecution against the church." Vietnamese authorities warned more

arrests would follow if "rebellion" continues.

Evangelical Christianity, meanwhile, continues to grow in Vietnam, and free church Protestant groups such as Baptists often are persecuted. Larger groups which submit to government control are allowed some measure of freedom as long as those freedoms do not conflict with the will of the people or cause "social unrest."

The Evangelical Church of Vietnam (North) unified with the General Confederation of Evangelical Churches of Vietnam (South) during the group's 34th General Assembly in Hanoi in early October. The groups have been operating independently for nearly 60 years.

Religious persecution in Vietnam has become a heightened cause for concern in the United States as the U.S. government has forged stronger military ties with its former foe and more U.S. businesses have launched operations in Vietnam.

According to Open Doors International, Vietnam is No. 21 on the World Watch List, the group's annual ranking of the 50 worst violators of religious freedom.

"In the coming years, it is unlikely that the situation will change substantially in favor of the Christian minority. Authorities have started to place more restrictions on areas that have experienced a more 'lax' approach from the government for years," the World Watch List claims of Vietnam.

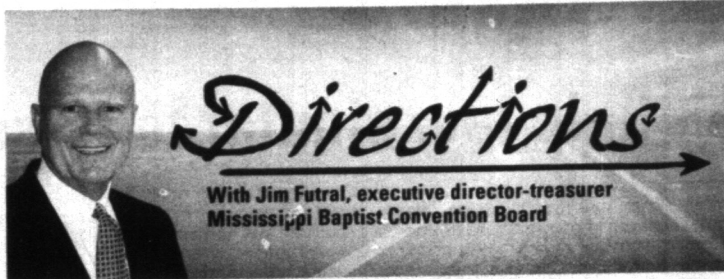
Of Vietnam's approximate 9.7 million citizens classified as Christian, more than 8 million are Catholic. A significant number of those Catholics reside in southern Vietnam.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth" (PS. 121:1-2).

Those words are the opening statements or pictures from Psalm 121. It was my mother's favorite Scripture. Even as a child I knew that it was her favorite of the Psalms. I had no idea what it meant or why it was so precious to her. I can even remember seeing these verses in her handwriting in various places. Then there were plates and plaques around our home that had it written down so that everyone could read it. As I grew older, I realized that her love for this Psalm may have come out of her own upbringing as she lived with her family in the foothills of the Ozarks in Arkansas.

The trips to see my grandparents over in Northwest Arkansas allowed us to see the mountains as we called them as the peaks rose up out of the beautiful countryside of that area. Later after I was grown and knew more about life and more about what my parents had gone through and struggled with in raising a family and building a home for us, I understood the Psalm better and her connection to it better as I realized it was not just the mountains that either she or David looked at but lifting up their eyes, they looked to the Lord. "My help cometh from the Lord," and her help certainly did.

For me, living most of my life in Mississippi, I can lift up my eyes to some giant oak trees but that is about it. There are no big mountains in our state and even our largest mountain barely qualifies as a hill in most places. Still, I have learned to lift up my eyes from whence cometh my help and to understand my help comes from the Lord. When



Lift Up Your Eyes

you keep your eyes focused above, it is amazing what you will find and what you can experience. Just recently, I looked up and experienced new things.

First of all, I was captured by new heights. I am constantly amazed at the skies, the twinkling stars and the dark of night when I realize how far away they are. Because the distance is so far, for centuries scientists have measured the distance not just in miles but in light years. It is incredible to think about those twinkling objects at night that are so far away. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Multiply that and you will see how far away some of the stars that we can observe actually are. They are light years away or even decades away. To put it in perspective, our closest star to the earth is our own sun. While it is said to be 93 million miles away, as light travels it is only eight minutes away. Now if sometime you get stuck in the humdrum of life, and you feel like there are no new horizons, no new ventures and no new heights to climb, just look up and real-

ize that not only in the heavens but all around in the horizon of your life there are heights that you have not climbed. While many of those heights may be totally out of reach for us, it would be well worth our time to stop and think about climbing to new heights in relationships, in service to our Lord and in blessings provided to others in ways that we have never even thought about.

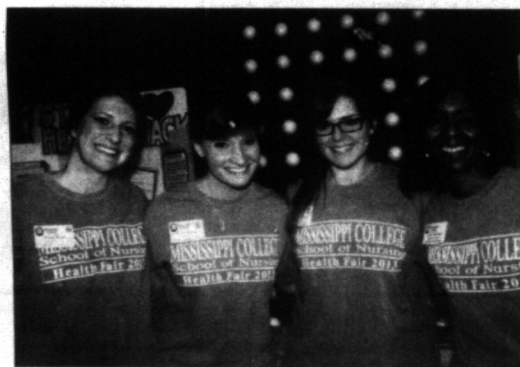
Secondly, I experienced new honks. It was the first few days of fall and early in the morning as I was walking, I heard something off in the distance. It was a huge flock of Canadian Geese flying in V-formation headed south and honking with every breath. It was the dawn of the day, almost pre-dawn. The sun had not even peeped over the lip of the horizon, but I could hear them and so I scanned among the trees and beyond to the skyline. Soon there was the whole choir of traveling Canadian Geese. I tried to pick out the tune they were playing, but I don't think that I had ever heard it. I assumed that it was a contemporary song, but I also

thought that it was a beautiful thing to hear. Even from the distance, I could hear different, very diverse but distinct sounds. Some seemed to be honking in the upper ranges, some in the middle and a few basses seemed to have joined them. Soon they were flying directly overhead and then on into the distance, having come my way and blessed me in the process. Some may have heard them and just pushed it aside because they were geese. Others may have ignored it because it was not their type of music, but I tried to accept it for what it was and accept them for what they are. I was blessed by their heavenly honks.

Thirdly, the most consistent thing that comes to my life is new help day by day. My help cometh from the Lord for He will not abandon me, He will not forsake me and He will not hurt me. He wants to help me. So it is that day after day I look up, not just to find stars and geese but to find a sense of the awesome presence of God as He wraps His arms around me and says once again, "You are my child. I love you." That overwhelms me for I know that I am less than a loveable kid in His kingdom and that sometimes He probably wants to turn me over His knee, or put me in timeout or just ignore me. But instead, He loves me and He is determined to keep on loving me in spite of my ornery, ill-spirited and unlovable self. So regardless of what is happening whether shortages, struggles, sickness, crummy, challenging or convoluted days and ways of life, I am going to look up. It will be worth your time to stop and lift up your eyes unto the hills and beyond that see the Lord who today will be your help.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

College News



(Top) **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** student nurses were out in full force to offer health screenings at the 2013 Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson in late October. Pictured are student nurses Alison Reed of McCarley, Grace Willing of San Antonio, Texas, Lindsey Pound of Pontotoc and Lisa Freeman of Terry. They assisted with blood pressure and vision checks, flu vaccines, and other screenings to pastors, their spouses, and other guests at the 178th convention at First Baptist Church Jackson October 29-30.

(Bottom) **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S** athletic director and head basketball coach Steve Knight is shown with Lauren Douglas of Waynesboro, a senior basketball player; Kyle Curtis of Hattiesburg, a senior golfer, and Tommy King, president of WCU. Student-athletes Douglas and Curtis were presented with the Halbrook Award that is given by the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities for individual excellence in academics, athletic contribution, character, community service and leadership. WCU had the highest graduation rate - 96% - among private colleges and universities in the state of Mississippi. King recognized the coaches and athletes during chapel service on October 23.



Staff Changes



OAKLAND GROVE CHURCH, JONES COUNTY ASSOCIATION, has called Corey Vermilyea as pastor. He is shown with his wife Rachel and daughter Kate.



EIGHTH AVENUE CHURCH, MERIDIAN, recently called Jeff Mercer as their minister of music. Shown are Mercer, his wife Paula, and pastor Donald Gentry.

BIBL iO C i P H E R

ATWK HGPAT TW AE ATEVGH, DWGXT
TPATWD ATQ LPKNWD, GKI ZWTESI VQ
TGKIH; GKI DWGXT TPATWD ATQ TGKI,
GKI ATDYHA PA PKAE VQ HPIW: GKI ZW
KEA LGPATSWHH, ZYA ZWSPWF PKN.
UETK ACWKAQ: ACWKAQ-HWFWK

Clue: Y = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 22:4

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RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the following Resolutions be approved:

NO. 1 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the 178th Annual Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the recipients of the kind hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, we the messengers of the 178th Annual Session have been blessed, encouraged

and challenged by the fellowship, worship, reports and have had the opportunity to conduct business as planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Convention officers and committees:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that with hearts filled with gratitude we express appreciation to:

Dr. Mark Smith, senior pastor; Rev. Bob Gladney, executive pastor; the staff, and members of First Baptist Church of Jackson,

The speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention,

Dr. David Hamilton, our Convention President, who has led for two years as president with a marvelous Christ-like spirit and has been an outstanding ambassador across Mississippi and far beyond,

And to all of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully.

2014 Cooperative Program Budget

	2013 Budget	2014 Budget	Percent of Total	Dollar Change	% Change
Southern Baptist Convention					
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	193,328	189,096	0.598%	(4,232)	(2.19%)
International Mission Board	5,883,242	5,778,501	18.274%	(104,741)	(1.78%)
North American Mission Board	2,670,704	2,612,247	8.261%	(58,457)	(2.19%)
SBC Operating	375,017	342,776	1.084%	(32,241)	(8.60%)
Theological Education	2,596,993	2,540,150	8.033%	(56,843)	(2.19%)
Total	11,719,284	11,462,770	36.25%	(256,514)	(2.19%)
Church Retirement and Protection					
Total	870,000	850,000	2.69%	(20,000)	(2.30%)
Mississippi Agencies and Institutions					
Associational Missions	120,000	117,372	0.37%	(2,628)	(2.19%)
Baptist Children's Village	625,727	612,403	1.94%	(13,324)	(2.13%)
Board of Ministerial Education	356,507	348,916	1.10%	(7,591)	(2.13%)
Christian Action Commission	360,030	356,308	1.12%	(3,722)	(1.03%)
Christian Education	5,461,724	5,345,422	16.90%	(116,302)	(2.13%)
Christian Education Capital Needs	693,270	678,507	2.15%	(14,763)	(2.13%)
Historical Commission	67,940	67,940	0.21%	-	0.00%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	406,356	397,703	1.26%	(8,653)	(2.13%)
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems	9,340	9,340	0.03%	-	0.00%
Baptist Memorial Health Systems (1/3 owned by MS)	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Total	8,103,903	7,932,911	25.08%	(170,992)	(2.11%)
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Baptist Record	558,063	560,483	1.77%	2,420	0.43%
Business Services	365,264	364,413	1.15%	(851)	(0.23%)
Church Growth	389,990	391,054	1.24%	1,064	0.27%
Church Music	417,953	397,214	1.26%	(20,739)	(4.96%)
Church Planting & Revitalization	409,428	396,294	1.25%	(13,134)	(3.21%)
Church-Minister Relations	230,924	229,328	0.73%	(1,596)	(0.69%)
Collegiate Ministry	2,118,909	2,154,098	6.81%	35,189	1.66%
Communication Services	434,515	452,449	1.43%	17,934	4.13%
Computer Information Services	324,640	331,975	1.05%	7,335	2.26%
Convention & Convention Committees	111,575	106,550	0.34%	(5,025)	(4.50%)
Discipleship & Family Ministry	812,207	815,763	2.58%	3,556	0.44%
Evangelism	321,952	319,713	1.01%	(2,239)	(0.70%)
Executive Administration	497,138	518,298	1.64%	21,160	4.26%
Financial Services	497,616	445,574	1.41%	(52,042)	(10.46%)
Men's Ministry	725,099	618,560	1.96%	(106,539)	(14.69%)
Mission Strategy	309,151	309,210	0.98%	59	0.02%
Missions Mobilization	548,309	554,079	1.75%	5,770	1.05%
Pastor/Leadership Development	391,763	331,233	1.05%	(60,530)	(15.45%)
Stewardship	272,793	263,510	0.83%	(9,283)	(3.40%)
Sunday School	440,683	402,906	1.27%	(37,777)	(8.57%)
Synergized Relationships / Teams	60,800	60,500	0.19%	(300)	(0.49%)
Woman's Missionary Union	748,956	764,112	2.42%	15,156	2.02%
Capital Needs	648,144	588,438	1.86%	(59,706)	(9.21%)
Total	11,635,872	11,375,754	35.98%	(260,118)	(2.24%)
Total Cooperative Program Budget	32,329,059	31,621,435	100.00%	(707,624)	(2.19%)

2013 & 2014 Challenge: shared pro-rata by entire budget

Just for the Record



SOUTHSIDE CHURCH, YAZOO CITY, had approximately 17 bikes and 39 bikers show up from all over the state for their annual motorcycle Sunday. Ronnie Lay, area rep for the Christian Motorcycle Association delivered the message and the church provided lunch.



CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION, honored their seniors with the presentation of a Bible and a reception. Shown are pastor Robert E. Walker, Alisha Inmon, Kane Tigrett, and Alivia Mauney.



The Children in Action of **LEESBURG CHURCH, MORTON**, made cookie bags with Philippians 4:13 on them. The bags were handed out during Jackson's "Feed the Homeless Ministry."



A **MISSISSIPPI RIVER MINISTRIES** team from Linden Church, Kansas City, Mo., spent Oct. 12 - 19 in Batesville roofing the home of church planter Tino Trevino.



The Women on Mission of **ANCHOR CHURCH, OXFORD**, enjoyed authentic food, fellowship, and shopping at a Worldcrafts Party. Through orders from the Worldcrafts catalog, WOM raised much needed money for impoverished people around the world.



Youth minister John Staszefski, **VAIDEN CHURCH, VAIDEN**, wore the Margaret Lackey victory hat as the church celebrated exceeding their Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Shown with Staszefski are Rose Ray and pastor Dean Stewart.



SLAYDEN CHURCH, MARSHALL ASSOCIATION, ordained Ben Bolden as a deacon recently. Shown is pastor Rusty Fair presenting Bolden with a certificate. A reception followed the ordination.



CENTER RIDGE CHURCH, YAZOO CITY, took its children on a trip to Nicolas Boyd Pumpkin Patch in Canton Oct. 5.



FIRST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, ordained Patrick Thomas as deacon. Shown are pastor Barry Corbett and Thomas.



SIMMONS MEMORIAL CHURCH, FLORA, ordained Larry W. Hinton as deacon Oct. 13. Shown are Rick Lang, pastor Willie Bishop, and Hinton.

Just for the Record



The GA's of **ARLINGTON CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, delivered school supplies to Dickerson Place and enjoyed a slumber party during Fall Break. Lorrie Lofton and Paula Linton, leaders.



FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, participated in See You at the Pole. Shown are some of the youth and adults who attended a Lincoln County SYATP rally. Jay Anderson, pastor.



The children of **HOPE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, presented a musical, From the Pit to the Palace, directed by Fay Moore and Ellon Stovall.



GOODWATER CHURCH, ENTERPRISE, held a fall festival Oct. 27. Shown is the winning entry in the trunk-or-treat event, Noah's Ark, by Janna Nicklas.



MT. OLIVE CHURCH, MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION, held a celebration recognizing the 125th anniversary of WMU. Area churches including Crosby, Gillsburg, Galilee, Liberty, Woodville, Zion Hill, Calvary-Smithdale, Calvary-Gloster, Hebron, and Mt. Pleasant participated, with 111 in attendance.



The Children in Action and their leader, Martha Grose, of **CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, launched balloons in June in remembrance of the victims of the Oklahoma tornado. Bible verses were enclosed, with four being found in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia.

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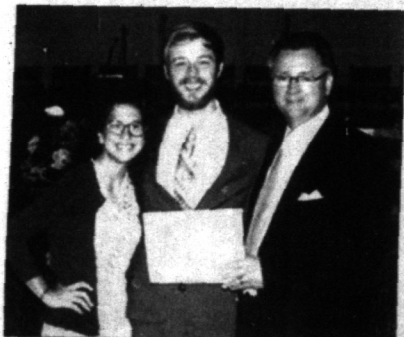


The youth of **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, collected snacks for Blair Batson Children's Hospital. Their goal was 350 snacks, but they received over 1500. Hal Hatten, pastor.

Just for the Record



NEW HOPE CHURCH, FOXWORTH, recognized those with perfect Sunday School attendance for the year Oct. 20. Shown are B.B. Stringer, 58 years; Dillon Smith, 9 years; Nancy Thomas, 27 years; Sherrell Magee, 32 years; Barbara Magee, 3 years; Kristie Smith, 16 years; Jimmy Thomas, 44 years; Howard Bennett, 6 years.



BELDEN CHURCH, BELDEN, ordained Kenneth Gray to the gospel ministry Oct. 20. Shown are his fiancée Whitney Ratcliff, Gray, and pastor Jim Holcomb.



TANGIPAHOA CHURCH, SUMMIT, licensed Mike Moak to the ministry. Shown are pastor Mike Morris, Moak, Becky Moak, and Madison Moak.



The youth of **HARMONY CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY,** recently went to Mitchell Farms, Collins.



PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL, ordained pastor Tim Nelson to the ministry Oct. 20. Shown are Tim and Lisa Nelson at their reception.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION, ordained Jerry Snowden and Jeff Smith as deacons Oct. 27. Shown are Snowden, pastor Corey Fontan, and Smith.



The WMU of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON,** began the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering collection with a skit. Each lady portrayed a ministry supported through the offering. Wilma Davis portrayed a GA all ready for Camp Garaywa.



SHERWOOD CHURCH, ALBANY, GA., ordained Brad Hobbs, Orlando, Fla., and Kenny Miller, Ridgeland, to the gospel ministry Oct. 13. Miller is student minister at Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland. Shown are Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood, presenting Bibles to Miller, left, and Hobbs, right.

Spiritual Treasures

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Matthew 6:20-21

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GuideStone rep encourages steady investing

LAS (BP) — Even in times of growth, capital markets can reward long-term investors, a GuideStone Financial Resources representative told participants in Oct. 24 webinar sponsored by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Nathan Hutson, director of investment service for GuideStone Capital Management, said the long-term viability of the markets is one of the basic investment pillars all investors should consider. Hutson, addressing ECFA members in a one-hour session titled, "The Economy and Impact on Christ-centered organizations," cited positive capital market returns over the years ending Sept. 30, 2013, in all major market segments. Hutson acknowledged short-term volatility and potential for losses but indicated that long-term investors have historically been rewarded in the markets. He also touched on other investment pillars:

- Potential benefits of investment opportunities in global markets.

- Strategic allocations that seek to provide superior long-term results relative to tactical allocation.

- Active portfolio management that may add economic value when compared to passive alternatives.

- Delivery platform that must be highly integrated and flexible to meet investor needs.

Hutson also addressed questions related to the government shutdown earlier in October; the impact of unemployment on the nation's finances; and the ability to invest according to biblical values.

Noting that a global deleveraging trend continues, Hutson said more individuals are paying down debt and choosing to spend within their income limits. Because consumption represents nearly 70% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), "slower spending" has caused U.S. GDP of 2.5% to stay below the average rate of 2.6% over the last four decades though the United States remains one of the leading economies in the developed world.

The Consumer Price Index remains well below average — 1.5% currently, versus 4.2% over the long-term.

While unemployment remains above the Federal Reserve's target rate, it is declining, and household assets (\$88.4 trillion) and net worth (\$76.4 trillion) are at historic highs, Hutson said.

"We strongly believe that you can incorporate your moral values into investment portfolios," Hutson told callers, citing GuideStone Funds. "All of the investment options that I have shared with you have a value-based investment approach embedded. We also believe you need to have a process to accomplish that."

Hutson pointed to the process, outlined in GuideStone's investment policy, which reads, "GuideStone will not invest in any company that is publicly recognized, as determined by GuideStone, as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion industries, or any company whose products, services or activities

are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of GuideStone Financial Resources."

"So, those companies that are publicly recognized as being in those fields, or having significant exposure in those fields, we would not invest in," Hutson said. "It's very important to us to incorporate our moral values into the investment process. It's been our experience that, by having the right process, both from an investment standpoint and from a values-based investing standpoint, you can actually have the potential for superior returns as a result. We believe that you don't have to give up anything in return."

Hutson suggested looking beyond the widely reported unemployment numbers to realize the true impact of the nation's continued slow economic progress.

"The headline calculation was 7.2%," Hutson said. "That number represents people who are still looking for work and have done so for the last several months. There is a statistic we

follow that is called the Participation Rate. That simply means the percentage of the population that is participating in the workforce. At the end of 2007, first of 2008, that percentage was 66%. Now it is about 63%. We've lost three percent of the population that is no longer in the workforce."

Some percentage has left due to retirement or to care for kids, Hutson said, but it also includes those who are underemployed — working fewer hours than they are capable of or desire to — as well as those who have given up looking. If the number no longer participating were included, the true unemployment rate could be as high as 11%.

"The truth is somewhere in between [7.2% and 11%]," Hutson emphasized.

Hutson said there is no doubt the government's 16-day partial shutdown did have an impact on the economy. Though it's likely to be small, it may be more pronounced due to the anemic growth in the economy since the recession ended.

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KY Baptist children's agency proposes hiring homosexuals

MOUNT WASHINGTON, Ky. (BP) — The president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) children's services agency has recommended that the organization amend its hiring practices to ban discrimination against homosexuals, according to a PowerPoint presentation posted on the agency's website.

"I would rather homosexuals see the love of God through us than be denied employment by us," Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services, said in an Aug. 16 PowerPoint presentation to the agency's trustees. "I would rather see the ministry continue to help kids and share the Gospel than close."

Trustees are scheduled to vote on the proposal during their Nov. 8 meeting. One trustee, Rick Fyffe, resigned in protest. Another, Stan Spees, is being threatened with removal from the board for voicing his opposition publicly to the change.

For more than a decade, Sunrise has been embroiled in a lawsuit surrounding its firing of a homosexual employee. Smithwick has long stated that Sunrise would not change its employment practices.

In Smithwick's PowerPoint presentation, given at a special called board meeting, he told trustees that "federal protection for homosexuals in the workplace as a 'civil right' just as race, gender, national origin, etc., is certain to become law sooner than later. Sunrise will comply or lose."

While asserting his personal opposition to homosexuality and his commitment to share the Gospel with children, Smithwick told the board that Sunrise likely has a small number of homosexuals currently on staff, according to the PowerPoint presentation.

"A church or religious organization can hire all Christians and hold them to their standards," Smithwick said, "but they cannot accept state/federal monies. Sunrise cannot meet the needs of today's abused and neglected children without public assistance."

Last year Sunrise received just over one million dollars, about five percent of its \$22 million budget, from the Kentucky convention through Cooperative Program funds and an annual Thanksgiving offering, according to the Western Recorder, the KBC newsjournal. Most of Sunrise's remaining funds come from the government, an Oct. 31 article in the Louisville Courier-Journal reported.

Only four or five out of the 23 Baptist children's homes affiliated with state Baptist conventions do not accept government funds, Bryant Millsaps, president of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes (TBCH), told Baptist Press. It would be "practically impossible" for a Baptist children's services ministry to begin refusing government funds after receiving them for many years, Millsaps said, adding that TBCH has not received any government funds during its 122 years of existence.

"Most agencies who get dependent on those large sums of money" cannot "raise the funds to cover that loss, especially in these times," Millsaps said. Receiving federal money is "almost like being dependent on a drug. You get hooked on it, and getting unhooked is very, very difficult. And in some cases it's impossible."

Millsaps stressed that refusing government funding may not be the right decision for every children's services ministry, but he said TBCH's decision not to receive government money is intended to preserve the ministry's autonomy to operate according to its Christian principles.

"Our clear willingness to depend totally on God and His people is why we're still open and operating today," Millsaps said.

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, called in an Oct. 23 blog post for Sunrise to take a similar step of faith, though he admitted it would require the agency "to dramatically scale back its work in order to be faithful to Scripture and to model biblical values in front of hurting children."

"In addition to what it would mean for the kids, another great tragedy of Smithwick's recommendation is that it ignores the investment of untold tens of millions of Baptist dollars and surrenders the very reason Sunrise came into existence as Kentucky Baptists' gospel-centered ministry to orphans and neglected children," Chitwood wrote.

BUCKLES

cont. from p. 1

Crossgates Church, Brandon; and First Church, Jackson.

■ Forgiven Quartet from First Church, Ridgeland.

Worship leaders included James Francis, minister of music at West Heights Church, Pontotoc; Tom Jenkins, minister of music at First Church, Starkville; Mike Harland, director of church music for Life-Way Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville; and Derrick Cowan, minister of arts and discipleship at First Church, Ridgeland.

Messengers approved First Church, Jackson, as the site of the 2014 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Oct. 28-29, with Mark Vincent, pastor of Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, preaching the convention sermon. Ronnie Falvey, pastor of First Church, Madison, will serve as alternate preacher.



NEWLY ELECTED – Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) officers, elected by messengers to the 2013 MBC annual meeting Oct. 29-30 at First Church, Jackson, are (from left): Donnie Stuart, pastor of Rock Bluff Church, Daniel, second vice-president; Joe Pate, pastor of First Church, Greenwood, first vice president; Matt Buckles, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, president; Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, recording secretary; and Jerry Bingham, missions director for Benton-Tippah Association in Ripley, associate recording secretary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Chesterville Calvary Church, Tupelo:** 40th anniversary concert, Nov. 10, 6 p.m., featuring Adam Crabb, Catherine McMahan, and Sean Greer. Free.

► **Mt. Olive Church, Okolona:** Homecoming/Harvest Day/Thanksgiving celebration, Nov. 10; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Saving Grace, music.

► **First Church, Sand Hill:** Homecoming, Nov. 10; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Bruce Worrell, speaker.

► **Phillipston Church, Phillipston:** Harvest Day Revival, Nov. 8-10; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bob Irvin, speaker.

► **North Calvary Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Nov. 10-13; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Hubert Yates, speaker;

Karen Cumberland, music.

► **East Pleasant Grove Church, Quitman:** Revival, Nov. 10-13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Gary Blair, speaker; W. Dwain Rogers, music.

► **Fayette Church, Jefferson County:** Centennial Anniversary, Nov. 10; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon program; Paul Pearson, speaker.

► **Park Haven Church, Laurel:** 50th Homecoming, Nov. 10; services, 10:30 a.m.

► **Yellow Leaf Church, Oxford:** Revival, Nov. 10-13; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; YLBC Praise Band, Jane East, director; Jerry W. East, pastor.

► **Liberty Church, Nettleton:** Revival, Nov. 11-15; 7 p.m.; Jackie Wood, speaker; Casey Jones, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, BOYLE, celebrated its 105th year at homecoming, Oct. 20. Shown are guests Jessica Hardy, Zach Hardy, Joseph Anderson, Jan Anderson, Sandra Edwards, and pastor Clarence Edwards.



MT. PISGAH CHURCH, ENID, celebrated its 125th anniversary Oct. 13. Shown is North Central Association AMD Lowell Ingram presenting the anniversary certificate from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission to Marty Evans, Jr., pastor.

Doubting Jesus' Power? • John 9:8-11, 13-17, 35-41

Several years ago the United Negro College Fund made famous the motto: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Those words are true indeed. How we think, process information and react determines a lot in life. The mind is a marvel. Our brains serve as supercomputers and processors that enable our bodies to work. With our brains we are able to retain knowledge. The treasure chests of memories we have are due to our brain's ability for storage.

However, there is another side to our brains. I often say that our minds are a battlefield. With all of its potential for good, the mind can be a destructive force in each of our lives. We have probably all known individuals who are prisoners of their own thoughts and false perceptions. They may be harboring angry feelings toward someone; forgetting Christ's command to forgive others if they want God to forgive them. It could be in our own minds, seeds of hatred or bitterness growing that no one else can see or know about.

Even still, within our minds jealousy and contempt may rage. Truly, a mind is a terrible thing to waste! In the book of Romans, Paul reminded us to renew our

minds. For the sake of our time together in the Scripture, there is one more powerful and all-too-common trait of the mind among many people today. That is the crippling power of doubt. In varying degrees, we all are confronted with doubt on some level. Recall the times in your own life when you encountered doubt. Chances are, the doubt began in your mind.

Doubt did not begin with you and me.

You have to go back farther than your own experiences to find the root. As a matter of fact you need to go all the way back to the Garden of Eden when the serpent planted doubt in the mind of Eve who as a result saw Adam succumb.

Fast forward to the life and times of Christ. There were untold numbers of people that Jesus came in contact with every day while He walked the earth that

chose not to believe in Him nor place their faith in His power to save and transform. While the unbelief of people in days gone by is without a doubt a tragedy, how about you and me? Do our doubts, attitudes or resentment cause others to be turned away from Jesus and the love we sing about and say we believe in?

We must realize how our persistent doubt can affect others. Don't misunderstand me on this point. When we are in

a valley experience, doubt seems to be knocking on the door (maybe even beating on the door). You may be tempted

to doubt God's love for you, His purposes or even that He even cares about your situation. Please don't lose hope. Whether we realize it or not, when we doubt we are, in reality, questioning God's power. When we doubt, we think thoughts such as: "Why didn't God...? If God would

just... Doesn't He care that...?" On and on the questions of doubt invade us.

How we respond to doubt is crucial to our witness and experience as a Christian. Take a moment and read John 9:35-41 from our lesson. In this discourse we read of the Pharisees and their doubt and rejection in Jesus' power to heal and forgive sins. They chose doubt over belief. They were content to be cynics instead of repentant. Their doubt had blinded them to such a staggering degree; they refused to acknowledge their own sins and, in turn, were the epitome of pride. As a result, they missed out on the forgiving grace of our Lord and ultimately, damned their souls to an eternity without Him.

I sincerely pray your doubt is not so deep that you begin to think you don't need forgiveness or greater yet, The Forgiver! Doubt is a slippery slope. Pray for the Lord to renew your mind when doubt comes calling. Even when you cannot see God's hand in your situation, you can trust His heart.

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.



Explore the Bible
with Bobby McKay

Step In • 1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35

Prov. 17:13 (NIV Study Bible) says "If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house." It seems the natural thing to do among us humanoids is to return evil for evil. Some choose to return evil for good (Nabal)? A more noble choice is to return good for evil. God used Abigail to overcome evil with good by preventing David from becoming a murderer. Prov. 24:29 says in part "Do not say 'I'll do to him as he has done to me...'"

We must heed this counsel when we seek revenge as a solution. Delay your actions - allow for a cooling off period. If your decision for action is solid and true, it will remain so for a later application. Exercise patience in dealing with offenses and avoid being a victim of your own human pride and arrogance.

David had shown great love and mercy toward Saul the king, who had treated him far worse than Nabal. We allow provocations to juice up our adrenalin and metabolic activity, and energize us way past the speed of our brains. David did face a dilemma in providing sustenance for an army of men and yes, he was totally dependent upon the people of the area for food. A sensitized conscience, however, will serve you well in decision making.

By waiting on the Lord, we can overcome evil with good. God used Abigail to prevent David from murdering by reminding him of Nabal's true character. Abigail informed David in vv. 30-31 that he would suffer in the future if he flummoxed the incident. It's part of our pruning system necessary to prepare a good future. Let no wrongdoing be found in you, but practice leaning on and resting in God's loving care.

Abigail pleaded with David to look beyond his pain and exercise his faith.

David was smart enough to recognize her great wisdom. We should do no less. All Christians face dilemmas about pursuing revenge, but be careful not to confuse your agenda with God's overall redemption plan.

Because of Abigail's advice to David that he was under God's care, he was able to utter a doxology in vv. 32 and 33 - "Praise be to the Lord God of Isra-

el who sent you to meet me today. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and keeping me from avenging myself. Otherwise, as sure as the God of Israel lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly, not one male belonging to Nabal, would have been alive by daybreak." David accepted from her

hand what she had brought to save a bad situation from total disaster. Please note that sin makes you dull, stupid,

dumb and without wisdom of who God is. Without biblical truths, we run amok. Sooner or later we all will have feelings toward someone else which we need to secretly handle. (How wonderful is it to own a Bible?)

David's beatitudes in response were a praise offering to God for sending Abigail to save him from the situation. He complimented Abigail for her discern-

ment and discretion, and pronounced a blessing on her for keeping him from taking part in a serious bloodbath.

After the death of Nabal, and after the life changing encounter with Abigail, David sent her a marriage proposal. Ahh, love is a more excellent way! They married. No doubt her beauty was more than skin deep, for she was strong enough to analyze and step in and defuse a dangerous conflict.

The principle of the cross is that our Savior accepted judgment for things he did not do and sought to set things right. God is never greater than when he died for our sins, and we are never greater than when we die to self in service to others. Abigail accepted full responsibility, and God kept David's sword clean and taught him a lesson he never forgot. There are times in all of our lives where we can step in and rescue someone from a bad situation, and there are times when we should be smart enough to recognize the offer of good advice.

Pray with me - "Deliver us from evil and lead us not into temptations."

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.

Bible Studies for Life
with Evelyn Gibson



Just for the Record

In other Church News:

➤ **Antioch Church, Brandon**, is hosting a special Veteran's Day service Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m., featuring Vietnam veterans, Terry Rutherford and Mike Walters, speakers; Scott Walters, pastor.

➤ **New Sight Church, Brookhaven**, is hosting a fall quartet festival Nov. 9, 4 p.m. Music by Calm Assurance, Ho-

sanna, Hunter May, Jason Runnels, and The Revelations.

➤ **First Church, Nicholson**, is hosting the 50th Santa Rosa Church reunion Nov. 10, 1 p.m., with a potluck dinner. Santa Rosa Church closed its doors fifty years ago and the buildings and contents of the church were donated to Waveland Church. A trust fund was begun with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation at the time, and since

then \$166,435.21 has been donated to the Cooperative Program.

➤ The Northeast Mississippi Pastors Conference will meet at **Union Association** Nov. 11. For information, call (662) 534-3940.

➤ **Double Springs Church, Maben**, will host the Greenses in concert Nov. 10, 6 p.m. Love offering.

Just for the Record



The **MID-DELTA ASSOCIATION CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS** of Indianola and Cleveland held a joint celebration Oct. 20, 2 p.m., at the Yale Street Church, Cleveland. Shown at left are Indianola graduates Raven Samone Mosley and Mary Ann Jackson. Shown below are Cleveland participants Chassiddi Parker, Carolyn Matthews, Addie Greyer and Lindsey Kimball. Sherry Williamson, site coordinator.



WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO, participated in "Feed the Cougars," providing a meal for the high school football team prior to one of their Friday night games. Shown representing the church were Gladys Tyrone, Teresa Jackson, Jordan Faler, Vanessa and Marcus Killingworth, Alton Letchworth, Lee Faler, and Tim Lea; seated, Beck Dawsey and Dorothy Jackson.



UTICA CHURCH, UTICA, recognized Debbie Strong for more than 30 years of service to the music ministry, with 25 years as organist. She received a love offering, with other gifts from the church, choir, and individuals, plus a book of letters. After the service, a covered dish luncheon was held in her honor. Shown are Judy Walker and Strong.



DOTY SPRINGS CHURCH, ATTALA ASSOCIATION, recently held an awards ceremony recognizing several deacons for outstanding service and awarding "lifetime" status to three of them. Also recognized was Jean McCool, Sunday School director and church treasurer. Shown are Allen Havens, Wanda Havens, Keith McCool, Jean McCool, Jimmy Adcock, Frances Adcock, Aaron Steed, and pastor Ralph Hunt.



TILLATOBA CHURCH, YALOBUSHA ASSOCIATION, recently elected four deacons. Three holding plaques were ordained Oct. 19. Shown are pastor Rickey Harris, Eddie Simmons, Howard Jackson, David Robinson, and Mark Hartley.

EIGHTH AVENUE CHURCH, MERIDIAN, ordained Jon Henry Smith and Darrell Scarbrough as deacons Oct. 27. Shown are Cindy Smith, Smith, Donald Gentry, Scarbrough, and Kathy Scarbrough.



PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, TIPPAN COUNTY, held a pastor appreciation event. Shown are pastor Scott Hudson with deacons Justin Seawright, Ray Owen, Stacy Bates, Larry Wilbanks, and Pat Hopper.



MACEDONIA CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, held its 2nd Judgment House Oct. 23 - 27. Over the five nights, 995 people attended the performance, with 31 praying to receive Christ and 65 rededications. Louie Williams, pastor.